

Self Guided Tour of Historic Buildings in Deer Lodge



Building has been going on in Deer Lodge since men first visited the valley. The Indians and trappers lived in temporary dwellings. The miners and traders who came next built log cabins, some of which may still be seen as you travel around the city. Farmers, ranchers, and more business-people followed and built, usually constructing simple wooden homes. As prosperity increased substantial business buildings and some "Victorian" style homes appeared.

Completion of the prison brickyard, (still visible, located just south of Deer Lodge on Eastside Road) in 1912 replacing one which stood where the Museum parking lot is now, stimulated the erection of various brick homes and buildings. A surge of building occurred after the Milwaukee Railroad arrived in 1908, similar to that after the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railroad 25 years earlier. The "Prairie" style was one of the more popular during this building boom. Many older homes were replaced again after World War II, although a few examples of each era remain.

This tour includes some examples of our many fine private and public buildings. You are invited to use this guide as you explore our city.

Reference Map pages 8 and 9

① *1100 Main St. The Montana Territorial Prison, on the National Register of Historic Places, was established in 1871. The fortress-like complex was built between 1879 and 1911, partially with convict labor, using locally quarried rock. Most of the existing buildings were constructed between 1890 and 1920. After 108 years of continuous use as Montana's only prison, it was vacated by the State and opened to the public in 1980. Both guided and self-guided tours lead visitors beyond the grey stone walls and towers through a massive, ominous cellblock, and into the chilling cells of maximum security.

1106 Main St. Towe Antique Ford Collection is the home for the world's largest and most complete collection of antique Fords. 101 cars authentically restored and original cars dating from 1903 through 1950's portray the development of the Ford car and show the evolution of the automobile in general.

② 1193 Main St. The Powell County Museum contains displays of local historic interest. Beginning with the mastodon fossils discovered near town, relics of the Indian, trapper, miner, rancher and railroader are displayed with panoramic backgrounds.

③ Cottonwood City, a centennial project, is an ongoing project of Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation. As buildings become available they will be moved to the site and restored to provide a model of a small frontier town. The name "Cottonwood City" was the earliest name by which Deer Lodge was known.

④ 1155 Main St. Constructed in 1918 by Conley and McTague using prison made brick and inmate labor. Originally used as a stable for prison horses, this building has an interior floor made of closely fitted wooden blocks.

⑤ 1019 Main St. Museum Post and Print houses a collection of operational hand presses as well as linotype machines.

⑥ 1017 Main St. Yesterday's Playthings Museum features 1000 dolls from the Hostetter collection and toys that span a century.



⑦ 801 Main St. Now housing Ron's Pizza, this bungalow style home was built in 1911 by Wm. Knop. The interior woodwork is the original wainscoting.



8 500 Main St. Now housing law offices, this 1910 Greek Revival building was originally the U.S. National Bank. During the time the bank was in business a barber shop and public wash room occupied the basement story reached by the side stairs.

9 418 Main St. The Rialto Theatre opened in March 1921. It has been owned and operated by the Jens Hansen family since that time. The arches on the front are a feature of Adamesque style architecture.



10 401 Main St. The original Larabee Bros. Bank, the first bank in Deer Lodge, was built in 1869. One of Montana territory's first banks, this building represents an implanting into the "wilderness" of the type of structure being built on the east and west coasts. The large windows served to give the bank a more democratic and open appearance than the fortified coastal cousins. The tall one-story building, now home of the Montana Power Company office, is made of dressed sandstone with cornice detailing. It was built in 1912 and replaced the previous bank building at the same location. The interior features marble and dull finished mahogany.



(11) 329 Main St. The Coleman/Lansing Building constructed in 1889 has retained most of its original materials. The cast iron store front on the right is still retained with only minor changes. The upper floor is original, using pressed tin for its decorative elements.



(12) Corner of Fifth Street and California Ave. The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints church building was built in 1892-93 and is a typical rural mid-west church structure representative of the type of church that would be affordable by a small congregation. The building is notable for its diminutive size.



13 **601 California Ave.** Lawyer Edward Sharnikow built this beautiful Victorian house in 1892. The original goldenrod and white exterior has been restored. Of particular interest is the flat-arch front door and the ornate festoon above the front steps.



14 **307 Cottonwood Ave.** St. James Episcopal Church was built in 1877 of stone quarried 6 miles north of Deer Lodge. The first services were held December 2, 1877, nine years after the parish was established here.

15 **Courthouse Square;** 409 Missouri Ave - Mullan Trail Monument.

The fountain was one of several located in the middle of the intersections on Main Street from 1872 into the early 1930's. Dippers were placed there so people could take a drink from the water that bubbled from the top and fell into the large bowl below. Horses were watered from that bowl and there was even an arrangement from which the dogs drank.

Powell County Courthouse was built in 1920-21 replacing the original courthouse built in 1886 on the same site.



16) *501 Missouri Ave. William K. Kohrs Memorial Library is a fine example of beaux-arts classicism. The large stained-glass window on the west wall is best viewed from inside the building. The library was donated to the city in 1902 by Conrad Kohrs as a memorial to his son.

17) 500 Missouri Ave. Across the street from the library is the Coleman House, built in 1890-92 by Deer Lodge jeweler and engineer William Coleman. This 2 1/2 story Queen Anne style mansion features several stained-glass windows and golden oak woodwork. (Photo on cover.)



18) 601 Missouri Ave. Built in 1913, this California bungalow was named "Sunnyside" by owner Mary Mitchell. It has been a funeral home since 1949.

19) 702 Missouri Ave. Like the Coleman House, the former home of banker Samuel Larabie is also a fine example of Queen Anne style. Built around 1890, the house was centered on a lovely landscaped block. The top two floors included a ballroom and maids quarters. Those stories were removed in 1945.

(20) ***800 Missouri Ave.** Built in 1910, this building houses the oldest continuing Woman's Club in Montana (founded in 1890).

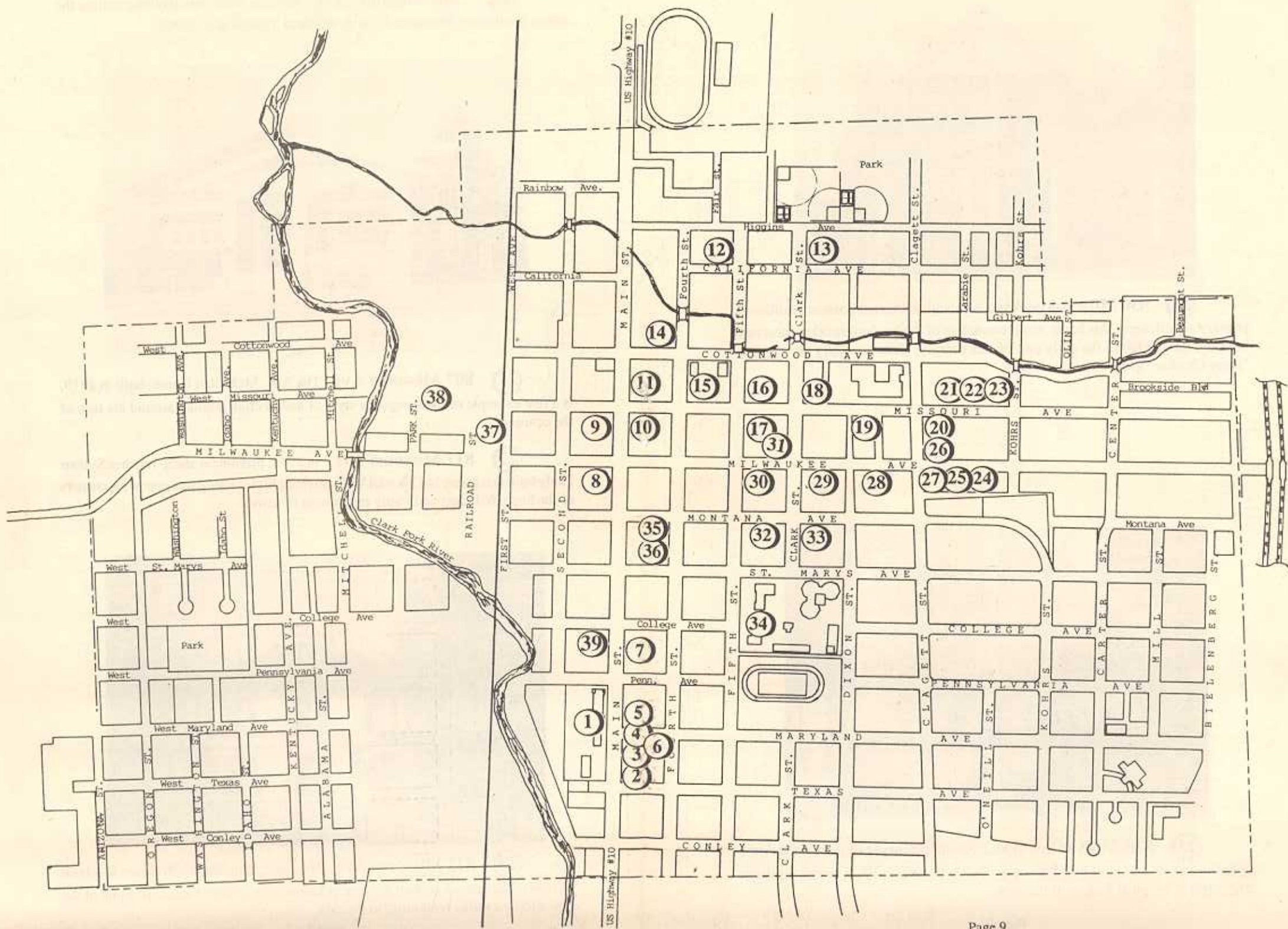


(21) **807 Missouri Ave.** The A.A. McMillan House, built in 1910, is a fine example of the bungalow style of architecture popular around the turn of the century.

(22) **817 Missouri Ave.** In 1934, prominent sheep rancher Sylvan Pauly built this house in Colonial Williamsburg Style. Pauly was one of the owners of the huge Williams and Pauly ranch west of town.



(23) **821 Missouri Ave.** The Judge Wm. Galbraith House was built in 1884. The fenced area on the roof is known as a widow's walk. It is one of the few widow's walks remaining in the city.





(24) 830 Milwaukee Ave. Although it does not possess qualities of primary significance, this home is representative of the kinds of resident structure built in Deer Lodge in the early part of this century. Jeanette Kelly the original "Betty Crocker" grew up in this home.



(25) 818 Milwaukee Ave. Another example of the Queen Anne style, this house was built in 1890 as a manse for the town's Presbyterian minister. The turret is a typical feature of this style.



(26) *801 Milwaukee Ave. Pioneer stockman and financier N.J. Bielenberg, half brother of Conrad Kohrs, built this home in 1910. This Prairie style bungalow is perhaps the grandest of the fine collection in Deer Lodge. Above the windows of the front dormer is a large triangular niche which is glass encased and contains big game trophies.



(27) 800 Milwaukee Ave. This 1 1/2 story Victorian Gothic house was built prior to 1888 by H.H. Reed. It retains the original clapboard siding on the first story and diamond pattern wood shingles on the upper floor and gable ends. The gabled roof is decorated with a board which runs along the eaves and a radiating sun motif within a triangular panel sits atop the pair of double hung windows found in each gable.



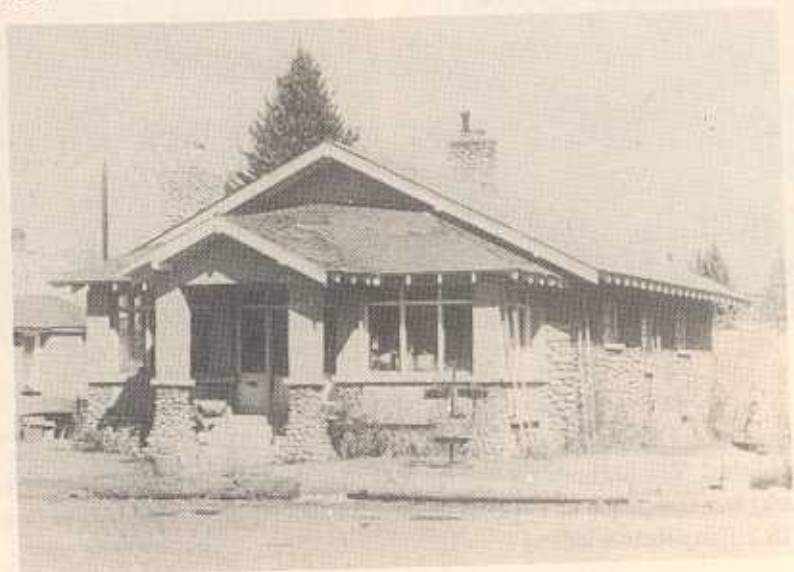
(28) 709 Milwaukee Ave. Built in the late 1890's, this house was the home Tom McTague, early prison warden and businessman. In 1921 Jens Hansen, Sr. bought the house and added unique canvas wallcoverings to the interior.



(29) 612 Milwaukee Ave. In 1893, rancher C.H. Williams built a home in town so that his children could attend school. Thirteen large cottonwoods originally surrounded the Victorian style house, but were removed in 1962 for safety reasons.



30 500 Milwaukee Ave. Samuel E. Larabie donated the funds to build this Presbyterian Church in memory of his mother. Built in 1917, the Gothic style church replaced the original 1874 building across the street. The 1874 building was the first Presbyterian church building in Montana. In 1884 a gift of a 600 pound brass bell was made by Mr. Larabie. The bell is still in use having been moved to the "new" church in 1917.



31 413 Fifth St. Built of washed rock from the Clark Fork River, this home was constructed by R.W. Ross in 1919. Essentially unchanged, there is a full cobble basement, a washed rock fireplace and the dining room features a window seat in the bow window.



(32) 512 Montana Ave. Saint Mary's Academy opened as a boarding school in 1882. The main building of the academy is 46 feet square, with hip-roof, bell-tower and platform. The basement story is solid masonry, while the upper stories are built of red brick, manufactured near Deer Lodge. St. Mary's Academy continued in operation until February, 1963.



(33) 601 - 605 Clark St. Immaculate Conception Church. The original church (605 Clark) was built in 1875, nine years after the parish was established. The old building now serves as a parish hall. The present church (601 Clark) was completed in 1912. It features 34 stained-glass windows, including a 1916 Tiffany Rose window.

(34) *703 Fifth St. Trask Hall, built in 1878, is one of two remaining buildings of the first college in Montana. The curriculum contained Greek, Latin, modern languages, music, mathematics and sciences. In December of 1884 a complete School of Mines was opened in the college basement.



(35) 610 Fourth St. This home was built in 1893 by Henry Valiton who was born in Alsace-Lorraine, France in 1840 and immigrated to Deer Lodge in 1868. In later years he operated livery stables in Deer Lodge and Butte.



(36) 616 Fourth St. Constructed in 1909 by Peter Pauly for \$9,000, this home has four bedrooms upstairs and one down, copper fireplace facings and walnut wainscoting. It has been retained in its original condition.



(37) 34 West Milwaukee Ave. The Evangelical Free Church was originally the depot for the Milwaukee Railroad. This one story structure is typical of depots along the line because of their standard design. Note the bay windows for viewing the track.



(38) 415 Park St. Built in 1911, the City Pavillion was the hub of social events in Deer Lodge. It was used for dances, skating parties, political rallies and any other event involving large groups of people. It is now used by the City as a garage and warehouse.

(39) 800 Main St. This two story log home was built in 1886 by Louis Marcotte. His great-grandson is in the process of restoring it to its original condition.

* Denotes buildings on the National Historic Register.